

cartridges, those blank cartridges so long that they had deteriorated and I had got rid of them. I don't remember how. I don't know whether you know the fact that powder after a certain time does deteriorate; but I think it was -- oh, it was a good while before the accident, I won't say positively, but I think so, that I had destroyed them.

Q Now, when the pistol was taken from your house by the prosecuting officials four years ago it had shells with bullets in them in the barrel of the--

A In the chamber of the pistol,-- cylinder I should say.

Q Yes; and they were all unfired.

A Unfired.

Q Did you examine the barrel of the pistol to see whether it showed evidences of having been shot off recently or not?

A No, sir, but I know - I do remember cleaning it.

Q When did you clean it, do you remember?

A Oh, it was several years before, because I never had fired it for several years.

Q So that it had not been prior to September 1922,-- it had not been cleaned for several years?

A No, sir.

Q To the best of your recollection?